

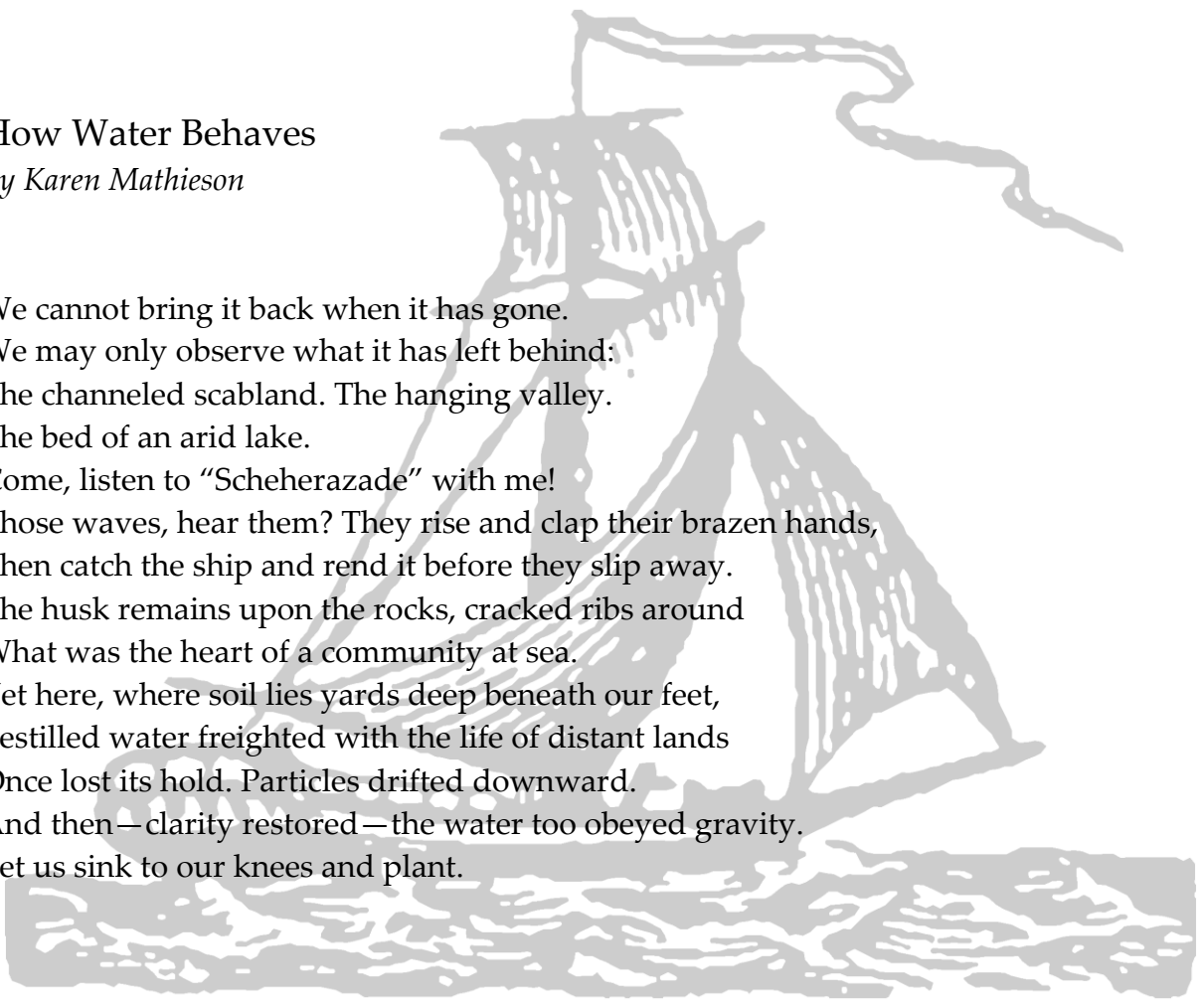
# Serendipity

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## How Water Behaves

*By Karen Mathieson*



We cannot bring it back when it has gone.  
We may only observe what it has left behind:  
The channeled scabland. The hanging valley.  
The bed of an arid lake.  
Come, listen to “Scheherazade” with me!  
Those waves, hear them? They rise and clap their brazen hands,  
Then catch the ship and rend it before they slip away.  
The husk remains upon the rocks, cracked ribs around  
What was the heart of a community at sea.  
Yet here, where soil lies yards deep beneath our feet,  
Bestilled water freighted with the life of distant lands  
Once lost its hold. Particles drifted downward.  
And then—clarity restored—the water too obeyed gravity.  
Let us sink to our knees and plant.

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